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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mrs. Sharon BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4(a))

Section 20. Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 20th meeting, on 24 June 1997, the Committee considered section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/6 (Sect. 20)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations expressed their support for the programme of work and underlined the importance they attached to the follow-up to the programmes of action adopted by the recent global conferences as well as to the strengthening of cooperation among Member States of the region.

3. One delegation noted with concern the increase in the overall resources requested under the section and considered that resources should decrease as a result of the streamlined structure derived from the reform process. Other delegations considered that the overall resources were commensurate with the proposed programme of work. They expressed the hope that once re-established in its headquarters at Beirut, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia would be in a better position to implement fully all its mandated activities.

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Conclusions and recommendations

[4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.]